MESSAGE

OF HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM T. MINOR,

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT.

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE,

MAY, 1856.

Printed by Order of the Legislature.

NEW HAVEN:
CARRINGTON & HOTCHKISS, STATE PRINTERS.
1856.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

https://archive.org/details/messageofhisexce00conn_0

MESSAGE.

t. President and Senators: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

Ou are again convened, in accordance with the provisions te Constitution, to deliberate upon and provide for the mon interests and welfare of the State.

Congratulate you upon the general prosperity of our com-nwealth, and cherish the hope that with your patriotic and lightened coöperation, our united efforts, with the blessings Divine Providence, may be successful in continuing and ad-ring that prosperity.

The legislation of our State hitherto has been adapted to e wants of the people, as they have been developed by events; nsequently much new legislation has not been required from ar to year to guard and protect the rights and interests of e community, and to perpetuate the principles of civil and ol cal liberty, which we have inherited from our fathers, nd which have ever constituted the basis of our institutions.

In entering upon the discharge of your duties, your atten-on will be first called to those subjects which affect our well-ei; as a State, and in regard to which alone we are called po to legislate.

At the last session of the General Assembly, resolutions were ass d by the House of Representatives, proposing various mendments to the Constitution. These resolutions, in accord-nc with the provisions of the Constitution, have been pub-ish d with the laws of that Session, and continued to the pres-nt Session for your action.

The first amendment provides for the election of de
to meet in Convention at Hartford, on the first Tuesday
tober, 1857, to revise and amend the Constitution of the

The second provides that in all civil cases submitted to
a legal verdict may be rendered by any number of jur
less than three fourths of the whole number.

The third provides that the Judges of the Supreme C
Errors and of the Superior Court, appointed in 185
thereafter, shall hold their offices for the term of eight y

The fourth provides that every male person born
United States, or of parents who are citizens of the
States, and every person who shall have resided in the
States for a period of twenty-one years, and shall have
naturalized under the laws of the United States, poss
the other prescribed qualifications, shall be admitted
elector.

The fifth provides that the rights of any person in this
forfeited by conviction of a crime, may be restored to h
the General Assembly.

The question for your consideration, with reference to
various amendments, is, whether by your action they sh
submitted to the people. The evils which they were int
to remedy, will, of right, have great influence in determ
that action.

During the past ten years frequent attempts have been
to authorize by legislative act, or by Constitutional a
ment, the meeting of a Convention, to revise and remod
Constitution, but all have failed. The advocates of the
ure have urged the increasing and progressive prosperity
State; that new interests have arisen requiring new le
tion; that many of the provisions of our present Constit
although suited to the circumstances of the State when ad
are now inadequate to its wants; that no substantial ref
tion of judiciary system can be accomplished without a r
change in the Constitution; that the present unequal
sentation in the lower house of the General Assembly
only be reached and corrected by this method; tha
amendments to the Constitution annually proposed exhi

old defects; and that the only feasible plan to remedy defects, and accomplish the measure of reform required, evise and remodel the organic law by the aid of a Con-tion. On the contrary, those opposed to the proposed ention, have urged that the Constitution contains within a provision inserted to remedy all defects, and intended sch amendments as the wants of the people may demand; the appropriations for the expenses of the Convention ul be large and unnecessary; that the advocates of differ-terests might, by a union of their strength, adopt pro-s injurious, and perhaps dangerous, to some portions of tate, depriving those portions of rights guaranteed by resent Constitution, and that the people of the State do k for such Convention.

The second and third proposed amendments are such as have deemed necessary to perfect the action of the last legis-ture, with reference to the judiciary system.

The right of trial by jury has ever been esteemed in all ries, the rights of whose citizens are guarded by written stitutions, a privilege of the highest and most beneficial ture. Especially in this country has it been esteemed as the ark of our personal liberty, and the protection of our rights, and its integrity guaranteed to us by Constitu-on.

Any proposed amendment to the organic law, with reference to this great right, will be examined, as it should be, with the most jealous scrutiny, that nothing will be done that will in the least impair the right, while every attempt to weaken this great privilege should be resisted; it is nevertheless the dictate of wisdom to ascertain if amendments cannot be made which will preserve the privilege, and at the same time improve its operation.

Some of the best jurists of our Country have regarded the requirements of a unanimous verdict on the part of jurors as a positive evil, and, to a certain extent, this opinion is undoubted correct.

When we consider that a jury is composed of twelve individuals each with feelings and impressions by habit and education

differing from the others, all with impulses and prejud
fluencing their action as jurymen, and require that e
transmitted to their minds, through the mediums of their
feelings and prejudices, shall produce unanimity of c
we are only astonished that a verdict should ever be re
in civil cases. Experience has demonstrated that the di
ment of juries has been a great obstruction to the corr
speedy administration of justice, and that the evil is incr
It has not been unusual that the pertinacity of one man,
by obstinacy or personal prejudice, has involved sui
greatly increased costs and embarrassments. If, in you
ion, the right of jury trial will not be impaired by the pr
amendment, and you are satisfied that the interests of
will be advanced by a more speedy and correct determ
of their causes, then you will permit the people to act up
amendment in their primary assemblies.

Heretofore any reformation of our judicial system ha
embarrassed, because the opinion has been entertain
many honest, well meaning citizens, that the number of
of the Supreme and Superior Courts ought not to be inc
while their tenure of office is during good behavior, a
limitation of their term, the age of seventy years. The
and integrity, and independence of the judiciary are to
served in every contingency, and carefully guarded b
and prudent legislation. Any change of the fundament
will be ill-advised, that makes the appointment of the
of the Supreme and Superior Courts dependent upo
changing results of our annual party contests.

While all admit that the judges of the highest judic
bunals in our State have ever maintained reputatio
most pure and unsullied, above suspicion and witho
proach; and no fear is entertained that they will eve
unmindful of their own characters, and the duties and r
sibilities thrown upon them, as so forget their purity a
tegrity in the administration of justice; yet a feelin
arisen that the life tenue of office, even in the judiciary,
a certain extent, inconsistent with the spirit of our Repu
Institutions, and that the same ability, the same integri

endence, may be obtained and preserved if the limitation
term of office be fixed at eight years.

fourth proposed amendment is virtually an extension of
ective franchise so as to embrace all citizens, without dis-
on of color, and at the same time a restriction requiring of
ien born, a residence of twenty-one years in this country
becoming entitled to the privilege of electors. Upon
subjects my sentiments have been heretofore expressed in
essage to the last Legislature. The last amendment is
volving no question of principle.

Constitution emanated from the people, and in that in-
ent they have reserved the privileges of deciding what
lments, if any, shall be made to it. And to guard
st hasty and inconsiderate action they provided that
amendment should be sanctioned by two-thirds of each
of the Legislature, before submission to them. Thus while
ople are ultimate judges of the propriety of each amend-
they have delegated to the Legislature the power to re-
r submit such amendment to their decision. Coming as
o directly from the people, you can best judge whether
proposed amendments, or any of them, are required,
hether you should reject them or submit them to the
r tribunal for decision.

reports of the Treasurer and Comptroller will be be-
ou, exhibiting the condition of the finances of the
At the end of the last fiscal year, the civil list fund
ndebted to the school fund $4,644.89. At the end of the
ending March 31, 1855, the balance in the treasury to the
of that fund, was $36,401.56. Showing an expenditure
g the past year, of $41,064.45 beyond the income.

following extraordinary appropriations, made by the last
evious Legislatures, have been liquidated during the past
year, viz:

For	the State Reform School,	$15,000.00
"	" Hartford Hospital,	10,000.00
"	" Normal School,	4,000.00
"	" Retreat for the Insane,	6,000.00
"	" Repairs upon State Prison,	3,000.00
"	" State Agricultural Society,	2,000.00

For the Wesleyan University, ...	$5,000.00
" " Compilation of Statutes, ...	1,800.00
" " Printing Compilation of Statutes,.....	6,176.00
" " Quarter Master's Department,.....	5,331.52

The foregoing appropriations, amounting to $58,807.52 for extraordinary purposes, the justice and propriety of will be admitted by all who recognize the claims of the ent benevolent, literary and agricultural institutions o State.

In addition to these extraordinary appropriations, the s $8,800 has been required to meet the increased expense salaries of our judges, growing out of the legislation year.

The resources of the Treasury for the past year have the revenue derived from the usual sources, and in addit bonus which the Banks organized under the general ba law were required to pay into the Treasury, upon accept the provisions of the act of the last Legislature.

The amount of the bonus was two per cent. of the C one half of which was required to be paid on or before t day of January, 1856, and the remaining half, on or befo 1st day of January, 1857. One half, amounting to $3 has been already paid, and the balance will be due on t day of January, 1857.

The result is, that the payment of these grants has made during the past year from the Treasury, in antici of the fund which will be re-imbursed on the 1st day of ary, 1857. If the entire amount of such bonus had bee and paid on the 1st day of January, 1856, as originall templated, there would have been a balance in the Treas the credit of the civil list fund of more than $32,000.

Applications for grants for different purposes will, unque ably, be made, some of which will be highly meritorious. that all such applications will be carefully examined favorably entertained only so far as humanity and the b terests of the State require that they should be. While of our sister States, originating plans of internal improve in many instances vast and important, have incurred o tions and become embarrassed to such an extent as to

or to be unmindful of their obligations, it has ever been the
lic of our State to avoid a permanent State debt, and the
u of that policy has been a source of just pride to every
tizn of the State who regards its honor, and reputation, and
clre, as his own. Whatever appropriations then are made,
ay and means should be provided to enable the Treasury to
ee the payment of those appropriations promptly and
ntually.

In a government like ours, in which the policy of the laws has
ae suffrage universal, the exercise of the elective franchise
ho d be guarded with jealous care. It sometimes happens
haunder the excitement of party feeling and the heat of a
olical contest, the purity of the ballot-box will be violated.
t ould certainly seem to be for the interests of all that the
ol t-box should be rigidly protected against the approach of
fra d.

We have now a law requiring a list of all the electors to be
mae by the proper authority of the towns. Any elector,
whse name is accidentally left from the list, if a resident of
thcown where he offers to vote, may exercise his right by
prducing a certificate from the Town Clerk of the town in
wh h he was admitted an elector. If the records of any town
sho the admission of an elector, it is the duty of the Town
Clk to furnish a certificate to that effect, although the elector
ma be dead, or not then a resident of the State, unless these
fac should be within the knowledge of the Town Clerk. I
sumit to you, then, whether an opportunity for fraud is not
fr ded by this provision, and if legislation is not demanded,
eiher by a restoration of the Registry Law, or by some provis-
io requiring that every application for a certificate shall be
acompanied with satisfactory evidence that the one for whose
be efit the certificate is procured is alive and a resident of
th State.

The Banking Institutions of the State are believed to be in
a prosperous condition. All the Banks that were organized
u ler the General Banking Law, with one exception, have
a epted of the provisions of the law of last year, and are now
in successful operation, and any danger to be apprehended

from the necessarily conflicting interests of two syst
Banking, has been removed. As the public depend in
measure for a currency upon the bills issued by the B
has been deemed a wise policy that the Legislature shou
cise a supervision over them. Such supervision shoul
exercised that while, on the one hand, the public is pr
from loss, on the other, the rights of the stockholders a
confidential relations of other citizens to the Banks, sho
be unnecessarily interfered with.

In looking after the general interests of the State, w
fail to represent the generous feelings of our constitu
we forget the continued claim upon our sympathies of t
our unfortunate citizens, who, by the afflictive dispensa
Providence, have been bereft of their reason and of the
sary means of its cultivation. The affairs of the different
olent Institutions, for the benefit of which, standing o
sional appropriations have been made, continue to be
managed by those to whom they have been entrusted.

During the last year, eighty-seven have been admitte
Retreat for the Insane as beneficiaries of the State, and
four are now there, supported in part from the standing
priation of $7000, all of which has been exhausted
furnished to this most unfortunate class.

The annual appropriation of $4000 for the support o
gent deaf mutes at the American Asylum, has main
during the year just past, forty pupils, eight of whom
admitted to the Asylum last September.

The General Assembly of 1853, made an annual app
tion of $1500 in five years, for the education of the blind
Perkins Institution, at Boston; but one application ha
made during the past year for admission into that Insti
as a beneficiary of the State, which application it was
necessary to reject, because the fund appropriated fo
purpose had been already exhausted by the aid furnis
pupils previously admitted.

A committee was appointed by the last Legislature to
tain the number of the idiotic in the State, and their sitt
together with everything requisite to enable a future L

p make some judicious provision for the amelioration of ndition of this most unfortunate class.

t committee, with a most commendable zeal and hearty thy, entered upon the performance of the duties of their ntment, and will report to you the result of their investis. There is no class more truly unfortunate and better ring our sympathies, than the idiotic.

ages the idiot has been regarded almost as an exile from man family, never to participate in its joys or its affec- He has at times been considered as totally devoid of and without any means of its cultivation, with the in- only of the brute creation.

d it is only within a few years that, through the efforts of lightened philanthropy, means have been devised for the vement of their sad condition. Institutions for the in- ion of the idiotic are now existing in many of our sister —the first was established in Massachusetts in 1848, and et with decided success. Experience has shown that the mental powers of the idiot can be strengthened, that a world of thought, of affection, of happiness and useful- can be unfolded to his view,—that the means devised by e in alleviating calamities supposed to be beyond the of human aid, have been attended with great success. xperiments of Massachusetts and New York, in the foun- of Asylums for the instruction of idiots, have succeeded. lying upon the report of the able committee appointed at st session of the Legislature, and the information to be ed from the institutions of these two States, you can act iously with reference to any appropriation which you may that the interests of humanity require should be made for children of misfortune. I recommend the matter to favorable consideration.

e number of boys confined in the State Reform School at present time, is one hundred and twenty-three. Forty- have been disposed of in various ways by the Trustees of School during the past year, and thirty-four admitted g the same period, which number would have been ly increased if the accommodations of the School were

sufficient. The report of the Trustees of the Reform will be before you, presenting the wants of that institu commend the subject to your favor.

The income of the School Fund during the past y been $131,066, which has been divided among 100,820 between the ages of four and sixteen years, at the rate to each child enumerated; during the year terminating the income of the fund was $119,385, and the number merated children was 85,275; thus, during a period years, while the income has been increased only $11,6 increase in the number of children enumerated has been If the same results are continued for the future, in the a few years the dividend to each child must necessarily b diminished. One of the most interesting questions t engage the attention of this or any Legislature, is the of popular education. In a government founded upon rality and intelligence of its citizens, to all of whom the to offices of honor and emolument are open, where suf universal, and no privileged classes are known, the su education is one of the greatest importance.

That the founders of our State so regarded it, is r from its history. And for a long period of time the cit Connecticut pointed with just pride to the position sh pied, as an example to her sister States in educational prise.

The hardy settlers of the State first erected a temple worship of their God, and then a school house for the ed of their children, so intimately in their opinion were r and education blended together.

The descendants of such an ancestry can never for principles thus early inculcated, so interwoven as the been with the very foundations upon which have been rea superstructure of our prosperity; in the schools of ou have been acquired those habits of subordination to la reverence for justice, which have distinguished her sons ever emigration has carried them.

We almost instinctively regard it as the duty of the S furnish every facility for the training and education of its

whom will hereafter devolve its destinies, and who are to
a its honor, prosperity and welfare, or to participate in its
ity and degradation.

argument is required to convince us of the absolute ne-
y of education for the masses—a necessity obviously great-
r than in the early period of the existence of the State.
would elevate the character of the State, sustain the in-
nce of its citizens, promote virtue and morality, and add
ity and permanency to all its laws and institutions, we
furnish to all, without regard to their means, the rudiments
education which will qualify them to be good and honest
s, upright and honorable rulers. If, on the other hand,
uld permit open and constant violation of all law, human
ivine, and weaken the foundations of our government,
e shall neglect the great interests of education, and suffer
ildren of the State to grow up in vice and ignorance.
reat importance of a thorough system of education, and
utary influence that such education exerts upon the moral,
and intellectual character of society, are truths recog-
in every civilized community. I do not refer to a system
enables a portion of our children, and only those whose
will admit to attain to a higher degree of excellence in
ctual culture and scientific attainment, but to that system
blic instruction which will be free and accessible to every
whatever his condition or circumstances may be; such
n will conduce to make a virtuous and intelligent popula-
minently essential to the correct administration of law,
wever wise and well guarded the laws of any community
e for the preservation of the rights of person and prop-
it is clear that those rights will be inadequately protected,
the tone of public sentiment is in harmony with the laws.
atever community law is disregarded, where crime and
iousness, consequent upon ignorance, are prevalent, the
and value of property are uncertain and precarious.
ting, then, affords a more certain protection to all the rights
operty, than the education of the masses; it is equally in
ony with the theory of republican equality upon which
government is founded, which recognizes no distinction
than that conferred by superior virtue and intelligence.

The Report of the Superintendent of Common Scho
of the Trustees of the Normal School, will show what h
done during the past year in educational works. And a
I fear we are behind some of our sister States in the
and education of teachers, and in other measures ten
improve and elevate the character of our Common
yet I am satisfied that a very decided improvement h
effected during a few years past, under the faithful exe
the late and present Superintendent of Common Scho
from the efforts of the large number of teachers that ha
educated at the Normal School.

I recommend the entire subject of popular education
consideration; and be assured that I shall most ch
coöperate with you in any measures with reference to
ject that you shall deem for the best interests of th
And I again recommend that the Superintendent of C
Schools be directed to send to such districts in the Sta
his opinion are deserving of the same from their gene
ficiency, one copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionar
inducement to the establishment of district libraries.

The last General Assembly, believing that legislat
required with reference to our judiciary system, origina
carried through a measure of reform intended to relieve
in our Courts from the embarrassments caused by the g
lay that had heretofore been apparently incident to a
proceedings. It is not necessary now to enter into th
of that measure, the principal features of which were t
gation of the County Court, and an addition of four
number of the Judges of the Supreme and Superior
whose salaries were enlarged to compensate for th
amount of additional business required to be perfor
them; and to obviate existing defects the two consti
amendments to which your attention has heretofore beer
one permitting a verdict to be rendered in civil cases
number of jurors not less than three fourths, and th
limiting the term of office of the Judges of the Supre
Superior Courts to eight years, were regarded as a ne
part of such measure. The experience of a single yea

e to test the defects or advantages of such measure; the
t might not be developed in that period, and its advan-
night not be fully realized. So far as I have been ad-
nce the measure has gone into operation, its success has
eyond the highest anticipations of its originators and
ctes. Under its influence the accumulated business of
f the smaller Counties has been, to a great extent, dis-
lof, a result that only a short time since was deemed
natical. And good results have been witnessed to a
or less extent in all of the Counties of the State.

ppy feeling has prevailed, not only on the part of the
but of the bar, to treat the measure fairly, and to frown
ny attempts to throw improper obstacles in the way of
cessful operation. The public also appear to entertain
ble sentiments towards the measure, and to regard it as a
ssive movement in the right direction. A longer expe-
will develop whatever defects there may be in the
e.

equently happens when any progressive movement has
riginated by ardent friends,—a movement approved by
, and sanctioned by the approbation of those for whose
it is intended,—that a disposition is manifested to intro-
mendments while yet the movement is in the way of suc-
experiment, and before time or experience has exhibited
s that require to be amended.

hing is more dangerous than a procedure of this sort; it
s legislation unstable, and tends to bring our laws into
ute; and not unfrequently some slight amendment, has-
d inconsiderately adopted, will seriously interfere with
reat object of the movement. I trust that proposed
lments to the Judiciary Bill of last Session will be care-
xamined by you, and only such adopted as may seem
ary to carry out the great object contemplated—a speedy
mination of legal rights.

en calling your attention to the finances of the State, the
as incidentally mentioned, that the disbursements from
reasury, for the past year, exceeded those of previous
by the sum of $8,800, on account of the increased sala-

ries and numbers of the Judges during the continuance present system. That amount will remain as a per charge upon the Treasury, and as it now is, will continu regarded favorably by the people of the State, becaus are satisfied that the services performed, and the faithfi ner of their performance, are no more than adequately c sated. A necessary reformation is never injured by app tions sufficiently liberal for a successful result; but this, appropriations excite opposition and endanger the reformation. It will be no difficult matter to increas materially the costs of the present judiciary system; b satisfied you will not permit it to be done, unless the inte the State require it.

The reports of the Adjutant General and Quarter General, showing the situation and condition of the will be presented to you.

The quota of arms, annually received from the Gener ernment, does not now meet the wants of the militia In 1808, Congress appropriated $200,000 annually for t tribution of arms among the different States, in propo their population; and while, since that period, new State been formed, and our population largely increased, n tional appropriation has been made by Congress.

The military law of 1854 has given great satisfaction militia of the State, and added new zeal to the perform the services required under it.

A large number of new companies have been formed its beneficial provisions, and the former drooping condi the volunteer force has been revived. A new provisio added last year, requiring a meeting of the officers for i tion and discipline, which has given efficiency to th With a continuance of the law, and of the same spirit th been manifested, the militia of our State will equal, excel, that of any other in discipline, organization, a soldierly bearing. I recommend the suggestions contai the reports of the Adjutant General and Quarter Maste eral to your consideration, and trust that nothing will b that will impair the efficiency either of organization o pline, of our citizen soldiery.

The great necessity of an improved state of Agriculture has been before been presented to the Legislature, and its importance recognized by liberal appropriations for the aid of State and County Societies established for its promotion; the operations of these different Societies, through their annual exhibitions in the distribution of premiums for the largest, useful crop, for the best stock and the best improved farm, have accomplished much for the general interests of agriculture. The attention of the intelligent farmer has been directed to the best methods of cultivating the land, and to the fertilizers best adapted to produce the largest crops on every kind of soil. Agriculture, without doubt, is the great interest of the State, which, more than any other, gives employment to its capital, and to its hard, industrious, and enterprising population. As such, enlightened legislation should be directed to the advancement of its prosperity. The present age, more than any other, is distinguished by the power which mind exercises over matter. Science has penetrated to every corner of the earth and illumined its dark places; it has explored the bowels of the earth and brought up fuel to supply the necessities of mankind—precious gems to gratify their tastes—and huge masses of the ore of iron, copper and lead, for the useful arts; it has made the elements subservient to its purposes; it has harnessed steam to carriages for the transportation of man, and the lightnings of heaven to wires for the more rapid transmission of his thoughts; it has traversed the field of agriculture, analyzing the soils of the earth and indicating the precise fertilizer required to make those soils productive; it has made the desert places of the earth bloom with cultivation produced by that labor which has been ennobled by its means.

The importance of practical science in developing the mineral, manufacturing, and agricultural wealth of a State can only be questioned by any enlightened citizen, unimpressed with its importance. Some of our sister States have provided for a topographical statistical survey of their territory, from which are anticipated the most beneficial results to their agricultural interests.

Although the soil of our State is not as productive as the soil

of the vast and fertile prairies of the west, which offers a
inducement for the emigration of our industrious citize
it seldom refuses a suitable return to the hand of labor,
would be largely increased by suitable encouragement
part of government—such encouragement as will call th
tion of the whole people of the State to the importance
subject. I have long deemed it essential that the minds
youth of the State should be early called to the subject
riculture. This could be accomplished in no way with
success, than by legislative enactment that the elements
riculture should be taught in our Common Schools.
deemed expedient, provision might hereafter be made
more extensive application of practical science to the
of agriculture.

The want of proper statistics has, to a greater or less
interfered with improvement in agricultural science. T
eral government, for the purpose of promoting and fo
the agricultural interests of the country, has made an
appropriation to defray the expense of obtaining st
which has been entrusted to the Patent Department;
munication from which department, with reference to t
ject, is herewith submitted for your consideration.

Since the last session of the General Assembly, the o
Sheriff of Windham County has become vacant by the
of Danforth Child, Esq., late Sheriff of that County.
devolve upon you, in accordance with our Constitutio
laws, to fill the vacancy thus occasioned, for the remai
the term.

Other subjects of interest will undoubtedly demand
consideration, to which the attention of the Legislatu
called last year, to which it is not necessary particul
refer.

The Legislature of 1853 appropriated the sum of on
sand dollars to aid in the removal of such colored inha
of this State, of industrious habits and good moral chara
might choose to emigrate to Liberia, under the superinte
and direction of the American Colonization Society,
pointed the Governor Commissioner to select from am

lants such as he might deem most deserving, with author-
pay to the Treasurer of such society for each emigrant,
n of fifty dollars. Previously to the past year the sum
hundred dollars had been paid for four emigrants. In
ber last, application was made in behalf of seven colored
s, residents of Litchfield, of industrious habits and good
character, for the benefit of the appropriation, for each
m an allowance of fifty dollars was made, and paid over
Society, leaving unexpended of the amount originally
riated, the sum of $450. I recommend to your favora-
gard, the projects of the American Colonization Society.
f not all of the colonists from this country are of indus-
habits, and of good moral character, and carry with them
derable degree of knowledge of the arts and sciences.
colonizing of the African coast by emigrants of this
ter will meliorate the condition of the African race;
nd the cheering consolations of civilization and Christian-
o the interior of their country, and soon dispel the
n barbarism of that benighted region.
d occasion to call the attention of the last Legislature to
ngers to be apprehended from an excessive foreign emi-
n, in its effects upon our social and political institutions,
e sentiments then expressed remain unchanged.
ccordance with the opinion then entertained that mili-
ganizations, composed entirely of those born on foreign
ould not exist by the sanction of law, six companies,
by representation were composed almost entirely or ex-
ely of the foreign born, have been disbanded. Our mili-
s were not intended for other than American citizens by
or adoption. Composed of such are companies in the
of which all American citizens entertaining a regard for
d a desire for its enforcement, may become members by
ary enlistment.
ain recommend to you to take such action as will tend to
ce Congress to amend our naturalization laws, so that
ge mass of emigrants who are yearly landing upon our
, by thorough education and training, may not only be-
familiar with the theory of our free institutions, but may
stand their practical operation.

Every patriot, to whatsoever party he may belong, will
the necessity of protecting our Republican Institutions by
possible barrier, and will doubt the propriety of comm
them to the care of those who cannot comprehend the
ture. The rise and progress of this Republic in weal
power, are familiar to all; its future destiny is with the p
age. We should guard its institutions, and protect them
the dangerous influences of any ecclesiastical political
which seeks to commit their keeping to those who ow
giance to any foreign potentate. Then that destiny will
of happiness, of power, of empire, the contemplation of
causes a feeling of exultation in the mind of every p
But if the management of our State and National mat
entrusted to those ignorant of the first principles of Repu
government; if the inmates of the pauper houses of Euro
of its prisons are not only permitted to enjoy all the righ
privileges of American born citizens, but the avenues of
of honor and power are opened to them, then will the h
every lover of his country be saddened at the failure of
publican government.

By the extension of the term of residence required
foreigner, before, by naturalization, he can become enti
enjoy the privileges of citizenship, no constitutional r
violated. When rights are spoken of, such are referred
belong to individuals under our laws and Constitution.
where shall we find any privileges granted to the citi
foreign governments, so far as suffrage is concerned?
certainly, there is no inherent right in any citizen of a f
government, to demand the exercise of the rights of a
of this government, until by our law he shall be permi
to do. At what time and under what circumstances
rights may be entrusted to him, is entirely a question of
to be regulated as the interests of our country shall requ

Very many of the emigrants landing upon our shore
by habit and education, enabled after a five years' res
among us, to understand the character of our institutio
fitted to participate in their enjoyment; but by far the

cannot and will not in that period of time qualify lves to become citizens of our Government. Our duty, s plain, to use all efforts to extend the period of natural- , sufficiently that the emigrant by education and a fa- ity with our free institutions, may understand their oper- and be fitted for the enjoyment of them.

ve received during the past year resolutions from the e of Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Ohio, in rela- slavery and the Territory of Kansas; from the States Rode Island and Massachusetts, with reference to the n Spoliation Claims; from the State of Alabama with rence to the duty on railroad iron; from the State of New relative to the construction of a breakwater at Cape from the Territory of Kansas with reference to a threat- dinvasion of that Territory by an organized band of the as of Missouri—all of which will be submitted to you in iance with the request accompanying the resolutions. egislature has heretofore expressed the opinion of the upon the subject of the French Spoliations, and though ttlement of the claims growing out of those spoliations een delayed for more than half a century, yet their e has been repeatedly acknowledged by favorable reports h houses of Congress, and a longer refusal of their pay- by the General Government, would be a denial of justice ir deserving, and in many cases needy owners, which no of time can palliate.

no time since the organization of our Government under esent Constitution, has there existed an excitement more rous to the peace of the country than has been witnessed l sections since the establishment of the Territories of s and Nebraska, by the act of Congress commonly called Nebraska Act. The principles of that measure, entirely iance with the hitherto uniform action of the Govern- in the organization of the Territories from the common in of the Union, were rendered more obnoxious by a l of the Missouri Compromise, which for more than a er of a century had been regarded by all sections of the ry as a sacred compact. No constitutional provision pro-

hibited the repeal of that compromise. The mere rig
succeeding Legislature to alter or annul the action
preceding one, is unquestioned; but a strong moral obl
whose binding force is recognized by all, should have pr
that compromise in its integrity. Under it that portio
common domain now existing as the Territories of Kan
Nebraska, were dedicated to freedom; the compromis
was the termination of one of the most angry politieal
ever witnessed, and by its repeal all those old feelin
issues which preceded its enactment, have again been l
into existence, strengthened by the additional feelin
plighted faith has been dishonored and moral obligatio
ted. The question of slavery has presented difficulties
late history of our country, which can only be remove
recurrence to the feelings and prineiples and aetion
founders of our government. By them slavery was re
as an evil, both social and politieal; neither was this th
ment of a section, but was the eonvietion of the states
the South as well as the North. The tone of Virginia
pressed through the patriotie statesmen of that Common
was peculiarly emphatic in disapproval of this grea
Such was almost the invariable feeling of this country
time of the adoption of the Constitution.

For some considerable time after the close of the
tionary war, jealousies had arisen between the differen
in relation to the vast amount of unexplored Territor
west of their inhabited portions. Some of the States
large portions of this Territory, extending westward
nitely towards the Pacific Ocean. The members of t
federated Congress, foreseeing that serious consequenc
to be apprehended from questions arising out of this v
ritory, wisely devised measures to guard against dang
this source, by recommending to the several States
their territorial elaims to the Union, in order that th
might be disposed of for the common benefit of all,
settled and formed into Republican States, which wer
after to become members of the Federal Union. Infl
by a patriotic desire for the public good, previously to t

, 1787, the States of Virginia, New York, Massachu-
d Connecticut, ceded to the United States all right,
nd claim, both of soil and jurisdiction, which these
then had, to the magnificent territory lying North and
f the Ohio River.

territory thus ceded by these States, and out of which
tates were to be created, and become members of the
l Union, was all the territory belonging to the United
on the 13th day of July, 1787. On that day was enacted
ebrated ordinance of the Confederated Congress, provid-
nong other things, that there should be neither slavery
luntary servitude in that territory, otherwise than in the
ment of crime. By this ordinance provision was also
for freedom of religious opinion, for the security of the
of persons and property, for the encouragement of relig-
ducation and schools—that the territory and States to be
l therein, should forever remain a part of the Confeder-
ubject to the constitutional authority of Congress—that
roper portions of the public burdens should be borne by
habitants of the territory, and that there should be formed
territory not less than three nor more than five States.
writer has remarked, in reference to this ordinance, that
erican legislation has never achieved anything more
able as an internal government, than this comprehensive
e."

Is it will be seen that the early statesmen of the country,
nced only by an enlarged desire for their country's wel-
not only claimed but exercised complete control over the
on domain in the Union, and also prohibited the existence
very or involuntary servitude, within its borders. It will
collected that this prohibition extended to all the territory
under the jurisdiction of the Federal Union, and unques-
ly, if all the territory since added to the common domain
ssion or purchase, had then been under the jurisdiction
e General Government, the same prohibition would have
applied to the whole of such territory. It appears then,
n the early period of the existence of our nation, under
onfederacy, no aid was to be furnished by the Government

to extend the institution of slavery over its territories, the contrary, the principle was established as a basis of that the relation of human bondage should be exclude the national territory.

At this day, we witness the wisdom of this exclusion effects as manifested in the States which have been form of that territory.

The States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and W sin, have exhibited an almost unexampled prosperity in rapid, progressive development in population, wealth an tical power. The hardy sons of New England, carryin them that love for freedom and reverence for law trans to them from their ancestry, have become the settlers o States from their earliest formation—secured as they by the early action of the Government, that the labor o ing hands would never be degraded by competition with labor. Neither was the exclusion of slavery from the n territory confined to the Congress of the Confederati soon after the adoption of the Constitution under wh now live, the same principle was recognized by the Co of the Constitution. It would seem then, that efforts to the institution of slavery over free territory, have been position to the sentiments of the early statesmen of our e to the action of the National Government, and in dero of the rights guaranteed to the territories.

The State of Connecticut has been called upon on occasions to express her sentiments through the Legi upon this subject, and she has ever exhibited the same u opposition to the extension of slavery over the comm ritory of the Union. The Legislature of 1847 resolved, if any territory shall hereafter be acquired by the States, or annexed thereto, the act by which such terri acquired or annexed, whatever such act may be, shoul tain an unalterable fundamental article or provision, by slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punis for crime, shall be forever excluded from the territory ac or annexed."

And again in 1849, the Legislature resolved, "Tha

Assembly, for and in behalf of the people of Connec-
hereby publicly and solemnly avow their determination
bre to and abide by the compromises of the Constitution
United States, relating to slavery, to the letter and in
pit of the same; but that they will oppose, in all consti-
and proper ways, every measure of compromise by
ny portions of our free territory may be given up to
roachments of slavery."

again, in 1850, the Legislature resolved, "That Congress
constitutional power to prohibit slavery in the territo-
the United States by legislative enactment, and that it
duty of Congress to pass, without unnecessary delay,
sict and positive laws as will effectually shut out slavery
ery portion of these territories."

have ever been the sentiments of Connecticut, as ex-
by her Legislature, representing the nearly unanimous
idons of their constituents. Sentiments founded in wis-
humanity, and justice, and in unison with the action of
nders of our government.

n we consider that the repeal of the Missouri Compro-
as not only in violation of a compromise with the moral
gion of a compact, but also conduces to overthrow prin-
early established in our government, and that the effect
repeal is the attempt to introduce the institution of
slavery into at least one of the territories created,
attempt, unless resisted, will be successful, we are
upon to use all constitutional means in efforts to defeat
empt, and to restore the spirit of that compromise by
mission of Kansas and Nebraska as free States into the
l Union. The interests of humanity and justice, and
all, the interests of free labor, demand this. Connecti-
l never consent that slavery shall be extended over free
y, but on the contrary, will resist it by all constitutional
believing as she does, that any attempt on the part of
neral Government to force the relation of human bond-
to the common domain, is in violation of the great rights
which the government is founded, and that the effort

to nationalize the institution, is subversive of the princ
our Constitution.

The actual settlers of Kansas, from all sections of th
try, are satisfied that those free institutions which
rapidly developed the resources of other free States, an
to their wealth and prosperity, will be equally advan
to their own State. And if the protection of the Gene
ernment were furnished to them to repel the attacks of
invaders from other jurisdictions, another free State
soon be added to the Federal Union. Whatever acti
may deem advisable with reference to these matters
satisfied that you will again express the sentiments
people of the State, a large majority of whom I believ
opposed, and sternly opposed, to the extension of slave
the national territory. While they entertain these o
they are nevertheless loyal to the Constitution, and
the maintenance of the union of the United States the
nent political good. With slavery, as already existing
the Constitution, and recognized in that instrument,
not wish to interfere. Regretting its existence, they
leave it to be regulated as humanity and religion may
by the States whose Constitutions and laws recognize it

In the performance of the duty imposed upon me
Constitution, I have called your attention to such ma
have been regarded as important to the interests of th
as well as those of a more general character, interestin
equally with the other States of the Union. On w
subjects we may be called upon to deliberate or to act,
sirable that discrimination and wisdom should be ob
May just legislation, and the recognition of the princ
equity and humanity invoke, as they have hitherto d
continuance of the Divine favor to the State.

WILLIAM T. MI

General Assembly, *May*, 1856.